

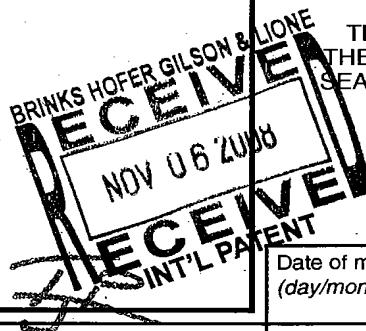
# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# PCT

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
Attn. Stover, Andrew D.  
P.O. Box 10087  
Chicago IL 60610  
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE



NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND  
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 3591-1566	Date of mailing (day/month/year) 03/11/2008
International application No. PCT/US2007/087784	International filing date (day/month/year) 17/12/2007
Applicant  HERMAN MILLER	

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

**Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:**

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

**When?** The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report.

**Where?** Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 338.82.70

**For more detailed instructions,** see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.  
☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

**4. Reminders**

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90*bis*.1 and 90*bis*.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase **until 30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  Hans Van Brummelen
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## NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

### INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, Annexes B1 and B2).

The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that amendments to the claims under Article 19 are not allowed where the International Searching Authority has declared, under Article 17(2), that no international search report would be established (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, paragraph 296).

#### What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

#### When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication. (Rule 46.1).

#### Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

#### How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Section 205(b)).

**The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.**

#### What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

##### Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

**The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.**

## NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

**The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:**

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:  
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:  
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:  
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or  
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:  
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

### **"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)**

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

**It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.**

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

### **Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed**

If, at the time of filing any amendments and any accompanying statement, under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the time of filing the amendments (and any statement) with the International Bureau, also file with the International Preliminary Examining Authority a copy of such amendments (and of any statement) and, where required, a translation of such amendments for the procedure before that Authority (see Rules 55.3(a) and 62.2, first sentence). For further information, see the Notes to the demand form (PCT/IPEA/401).

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, the written opinion of the International Searching Authority will, except in certain cases where the International Preliminary Examining Authority did not act as International Searching Authority and where it has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b), be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority. If a demand is made, the applicant may submit to the International Preliminary Examining Authority a reply to the written opinion together, where appropriate, with amendments before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later (Rule 43bis.1(c)).

### **Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase**

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II.

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  3591-1566	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No.  PCT/US2007/087784	International filing date (day/month/year)  17/12/2007	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)  20/12/2006	
Applicant  HERMAN MILLER			

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 7 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

**1. Basis of the report**

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed  
☐ a translation of the international application into \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

b. ☐ This international search report has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43.6bis(a)).

c. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box No. II)

3. ☒ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box No III)

4. With regard to the **title**,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant  
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant  
☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

- a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 3a  
☐ as suggested by the applicant  
☒ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure  
☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention  
b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/US2007/087784

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A47B13/02 F16B12/20 F16B21/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A47B F16B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 198 12 300 A1 (BRUNNER GMBH [DE]) 30 September 1999 (1999-09-30) abstract; figure 5 column 3, paragraph 12 - column 4, paragraph 2; figure 5 -----	1-5,7, 17-30
A	DE 28 17 734 A1 (NEWMAN SEN) 2 November 1978 (1978-11-02) the whole document -----	1
A	US 1 745 302 A (JONES LOUIS W) 28 January 1930 (1930-01-28) the whole document -----	1
A	US 3 335 471 A (ALEXANDER SECKERSON CLIFFORD ET AL) 15 August 1967 (1967-08-15) the whole document -----	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*Z\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 July 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report

03/11/2008

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Jones, Clive

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2007/087784

## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search reportcovers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-32

### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

## 1. claims: 1-32

A connection system comprising:

- a floating ring,
- a float retainer,
- a locking assembly comprising:
  - a locking collar,
  - a base retainer.

and

the method of assembling the connection system.  
comprising:

- connecting the float retainer to a first object,
- connecting the base retainer to a second object; coupling the locking collar to the base retainer;
- positioning the floating ring adjacent the locking collar;
- positioning the locking collar in a first configuration so that an engagement member engages the floating ring;
- adjusting the position of the first object relative to the second object; and
- positioning the locking collar in a second configuration, wherein the engagement member engages the floating ring such that the float retainer is fixed relative to the base retainer.

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## 2. claims: 33-40

A furniture leg attachment system comprising:

- a plug member,
  - a leg tube,
- a collar disposed around the leg tube, said collar also comprising a ratchet mechanism,
- and
- the method of assembling the furniture leg attachment system, comprising:
- disposing the collar on the leg tube adjacent its circumferential shoulder,
  - such that the collar is rotationally fixed with respect to the leg tube;
  - disposing a first end of the leg tube in the opening of the plug member; and
  - rotating the leg tube to engage the threaded portion of the collar with the threaded portion of the plug member, and the ratchet mechanism of the collar with the toothed portion of the plug member, thereby securing the leg tube to the plug member.

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## 3. claims: 41-52

## FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

A height adjustable leg assembly comprising:

- an upper leg tube,
- a lower leg tube,
- a sleeve disposed around the lower leg tube with a vertical channel and pin axially moveable in the vertical channel,

and

a method of assembling the height adjustable leg assembly comprising:

providing the upper leg tube;

providing the lower leg tube comprising at least one pin extending from the leg tube;

providing the sleeve comprising a vertical channel and a plurality of recesses in communication with the vertical channel;

disposing the sleeve around the lower leg tube, with the at least one pin disposed in the vertical channel;

connecting the sleeve to the upper leg tube;

sliding the lower leg tube vertically with respect to the sleeve; disposing the at least one pin in at least one of the plurality of recesses and releasably connecting the at least one pin to the sleeve with a snap fit connection, wherein the lower leg tube vertically supports the upper leg tube.

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4. claim: 53

A furniture system comprising:

- a work surface,
- a floating ring coupled to the work surface,
- a work surface support comprising a plug member with leg tube disposed therein.
- a locking collar coupled to the work surface support.

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5. claim: 54

A furniture system comprising:

- a work surface,
- a floating ring,
- a float retainer,
- a work surface support with a plug member,
- a locking collar,
- a base retainer,
- an upper leg tube with collar and ratchet mechanism,
- a lower leg tube with vertical channel configured for axial sliding movement of a pin, said lower leg tube supporting the upper leg tube.

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6. claims: 55-57



**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

A glide assembly comprising:

- a leg insert,
  - a collar with a threaded channel,
  - a shaft engaging the threaded channel of the collar,
  - a base connected to the shaft.
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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2007/087784

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 19812300	A1	30-09-1999	NONE
DE 2817734	A1	02-11-1978	GB 1573671 A 28-08-1980 JP 53136787 A 29-11-1978 US 4127224 A 28-11-1978
US 1745302	A	28-01-1930	NONE
US 3335471	A	15-08-1967	GB 1013095 A 15-12-1965

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

## PCT

### WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
see form PCT/ISA/220

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**  
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
PCT/US2007/087784

International filing date (day/month/year)  
17.12.2007

Priority date (day/month/year)  
20.12.2006

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
INV. A47B13/02 F16B12/20 F16B21/02

Applicant  
HERMAN MILLER

**1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:**

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☒ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

**2. FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

**3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.**

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas  
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl  
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Date of completion of  
this opinion

See form  
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

Jones, Clive

Telephone No. +31 70 340-2972



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/US2007/087784

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**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

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1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
  - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. ☐ This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material:
    - ☐ a sequence listing
    - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material:
    - ☐ on paper
    - ☐ in electronic form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing:
    - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
    - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
    - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
4. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/US2007/087784

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**Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

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The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of

☐ the entire international application

☒ claims Nos. 33-57

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international search (*specify*):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☒ no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos. 33-57

☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:

☐ furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rules 13ter.1(a) or (b).

☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the tables related to the sequence listings; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit, furnish such tables in electronic form complying with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions, and such tables were not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in electronic form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.

☐ See Supplemental Box for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/US2007/087784

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**Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention**

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1. ☒ In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees, the applicant has, within the applicable time limit:
- ☐ paid additional fees
  - ☐ paid additional fees under protest and, where applicable, the protest fee
  - ☐ paid additional fees under protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid
  - ☒ not paid additional fees
2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
- ☐ complied with
  - ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:  
see separate sheet
4. Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
- ☐ all parts.
  - ☒ the parts relating to claims Nos. 1-32

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**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>5,6,8-16,19,24,31,32</u>
	No: Claims	<u>1-4,7,17,18,20-23,25-30</u>
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	<u>6,8-16,31,31</u>
	No: Claims	<u>1-5,7,17-30</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-32</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**Re item III**

See non-unity objection (claims 33-57)

**Re item IV**

**1. NON-UNITY**

This Authority considers that there are 6 inventions covered by the claims indicated as follows:

Product claims:

1. Claims 1-30 (a connection system)
2. Claims 33-38 (a furniture leg attachment system)
3. Claims 41-49 (a height adjustable leg assembly)
4. Claim 53 (a furniture system)
5. Claim 54 (a furniture system)
6. Claims 55-57 (a glide assembly)

Method claims:

7. Claims 31-32 (a method of assembling a connection system)
8. Claims 39-40 (a method of assembling a furniture leg attachment system)
9. Claims 50-52 (a method of assembling a height adjustable leg assembly)

Claims 31 and 32 are considered as unitary with claims 1-30.

Claims 39-40 are considered as unitary with claims 33-38.

Claims 50-52 are considered as unitary with claims 41-49.

The reasons for which the above inventions are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, as required by Rule 13.1 PCT are as follows:

The prior art has been identified as document DE19812300 (D1) and discloses all

the technical features of claims 1-4, 7, 17, 18, 20-23, 25-30.

As all the technical features of the above claims are disclosed and therefore common to D1, it follows that the technical features of product claims 33-38, 41-49, 53, 54 and 55-57 other than those indicated in claims 1-30 as known in D1 are non-unitary.

For the respective groups of the product and method claims, neither the objective problems underlying the subjects of the claimed inventions, nor their solutions allow for a relationship to be established between the said inventions, which involves a single general inventive concept.

In conclusion, the groups of respective product and method claims are not linked by common or corresponding special technical features and define 6 different inventions not linked by a single general inventive concept.

The application, hence does not meet the requirements of unity of invention as defined in Rules 13.1 and 13.2 PCT.

#### **Re Item V**

#### **Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: DE 198 12 300 A1 (BRUNNER GMBH [DE]) 30 September 1999 (1999-09-30)

#### **1. INDEPENDENT PRODUCT CLAIM 1**

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A connection system comprising:



a float assembly (6,29) comprising:  
a floating ring (6); and  
a float retainer (29) disposed against the floating ring (6) and adapted to be secured to a first object; and  
a locking assembly comprising:  
a locking collar (23); and  
a base retainer (8) coupled to the locking collar and adapted to be attached to a second object and comprising an engagement member (16) engaging the floating ring with the float retainer disposed between the floating ring and the locking assembly, *wherein the locking assembly is moveable between a first configuration wherein the float retainer is moveable relative to the locking assembly and a second configuration wherein the float retainer is fixed relative to the locking assembly.*

- 1.1 The text in italics are those features which are indirectly claimed and is a functional statement which does not enable the skilled person to determine which technical features are necessary to perform the stated function.

2. SUB-CLAIMS 2-25

D1 discloses all the technical features of sub-claims 2-4,7,17,18,20-23,25.

- 2.1 The technical features of sub-claims 5,19 and 24 are merely one of several straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to solve the problem posed.
- 2.2 Sub-claim 6 dependent on claim 5 is considered as new and inventive in respect of Rules 33(2) and (3) PCT.

3. INDEPENDENT PRODUCT CLAIM 26

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 26 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A connection system comprising:  
a floating ring (6) adapted to be secured to a first object;  
a locking collar (23) ; and  
a base retainer (8) coupled to the locking collar and adapted to be attached to a second object and comprising an engagement member (16) engaging the floating ring, *wherein the locking collar is moveable between a first configuration wherein the float retainer is moveable relative to the base retainer, a second configuration wherein the float retainer is fixed relative to the base retainer, and a third configuration wherein the engagement member is disengaged from the floating ring such that the floating ring may be separated from the base retainer.*

- 3.1 The text in italics are those technical features which are indirectly claimed and are a functional statement which does not enable the skilled person to determine which technical features are necessary to perform the stated function.

3.2 SUB-CLAIMS 27-30

D1 also discloses all the technical features of sub-claims 27-30.

4. Claims 26-30 do not satisfy the requirements novelty and inventive step (Art 33(2) and 33(3) in relation to D1.

5. INDEPENDENT METHOD CLAIM 31

Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses all the technical features of method claim 31 with the exception of (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

-providing a float retainer (29) and connecting the float retainer to a first object, with the floating ring (6) disposed between the float retainer and the first object (lines 3 and 4 of claim 31).

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING  
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

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The subject-matter of method claim 31 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as a method whereby the floating ring is held captive by said float retainer and first object to facilitate the assembly.

The solution to this problem proposed in method claim 31 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) because such a method is neither known nor suggested by the prior art.

Claim 32 is dependent on claim 31 and as such also meets the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

## Possible steps after receipt of the international search report (ISR) and written opinion of the International Searching Authority (WO-ISA)

General information	<p>For all international applications filed on or after 01/01/2004 the competent ISA will establish an ISR. It is accompanied by the WO-ISA. Unlike the former written opinion of the IPEA (Rule 66.2 PCT), the WO-ISA is not meant to be responded to, but to be taken into consideration for further procedural steps. This document explains about the possibilities.</p>
Amending claims under Art. 19 PCT	<p>Within 2 months after the date of mailing of the ISR and the WO-ISA the applicant may file amended claims under Art. 19 PCT directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. The PCT reform of 2004 did not change this procedure. For further information please see Rule 46 PCT as well as form PCT/ISA/220 and the corresponding Notes to form PCT/ISA/220.</p>
Filing a demand for international preliminary examination	<p>In principle, the WO-ISA will be considered as the written opinion of the IPEA. This should, in many cases, make it unnecessary to file a demand for international preliminary examination. If the applicant nevertheless wishes to file a demand this must be done before expiry of 3 months after the date of mailing of the ISR/ WO-ISA or 22 months after priority date, whichever expires later (Rule 54bis PCT). Amendments under Art. 34 PCT can be filed with the IPEA as before, normally at the same time as filing the demand (Rule 66.1 (b) PCT).</p> <p>If a demand for international preliminary examination is filed and no comments/amendments have been received the WO-ISA will be transformed by the IPEA into an IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) which would merely reflect the content of the WO-ISA. The demand can still be withdrawn (Art. 37 PCT).</p>
Filing informal comments	<p>After receipt of the ISR/WO-ISA the applicant may file informal comments on the WO-ISA directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. These will be communicated to the designated Offices together with the IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) at 30 months from the priority date. Please also refer to the next box.</p>
End of the international phase	<p>At the end of the international phase the International Bureau of WIPO will transform the WO-ISA or, if a demand was filed, the written opinion of the IPEA into the IPRP, which will then be transmitted together with possible informal comments to the designated Offices. The IPRP replaces the former IPER (international preliminary examination report).</p>
Relevant PCT Rules and more information	<p>Rule 43 PCT, Rule 43bis PCT, Rule 44 PCT, Rule 44bis PCT, PCT Newsletter 12/2003, OJ 11/2003, OJ 12/2003</p>